

**REGULATIONS FOR SELECTION OF VALEDICTORIAN,  
SALUTATORIAN AND CLASS ESSAYIST**

The high school principal will award the title of valedictorian, salutatorian and class essayist to students who earn this distinction and who are members of a June graduating class at the Patchogue-Medford High School. The valedictorian will be the student whose cumulative class rank average is highest when the marks of academic courses are computed. The salutatorian will be the student with the second highest average. The class essayist will be the student with the third highest average.

**Student Eligibility**  
**Subsection 5127.1a**

To be eligible for selection as valedictorian, salutatorian or class essayist, a student must:

- A. Attend Patchogue-Medford High School for six (6) full semesters in Grades 9 through the completion of the third marking quarter of Grade 12. Students enrolled for one (1) or two (2) semesters in schools or programs which are disqualified will have their averages computed by using marks earned in qualifying subjects and courses.
- B. Be enrolled as a full-time student at Patchogue-Medford High School at the time of graduation.

**Qualifying Course of Study**  
**Subsection 5127.1b**

To select the candidate for valedictorian, salutatorian and class essayist, the following criteria will be applied as a standard for courses of study which lead to a final mark:

- A. The course of study must be taken beginning in Grade 9 and extending through the third marking period of Grade 12. Courses which are approved by the Board of Education to satisfy the high school diploma requirement and which are taken by students enrolled in a grade lower than Grade 9 will qualify.
- B. Courses of study will qualify if they are earned in:
  - 1. New York State secondary schools registered by the Commissioner of Education.
  - 2. Secondary schools located in the fifty (50) states and the District of Columbia registered by the State Superintendent of Education or the City Superintendent of Schools.
  - 3. United States government schools located in the United States, its possessions or in foreign countries which are registered with the United States Department of Education.

## **Regulations for Selection of Valedictorian, Salutatorian and Class Essayist (Continued)**

### **Disqualifying Courses or Schools**

#### **Subsection 5127.1c**

The high school principal may not use marks in computing averages to select the valedictorian, salutatorian or class essayist for the following course credits:

- A. Earned in schools under the jurisdiction of a foreign government or a foreign private interest.
- B. Earned in a school located in a foreign nation under the jurisdiction of an American private interest.
- C. Earned in summer sessions other than those conducted by the Patchogue-Medford School District.
- D. Earned at the post-high school level.

### **Honorary Levels of Distinction**

#### **Subsection 5127.1d**

The Patchogue-Medford Union Free School District strives to empower all students to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The District encourages students to undertake a diverse and appropriate academic program that aligns with their chosen pathway option. Students should select challenging and rigorous courses of interest without the concern of the impact these courses will have on their Grade Point Average (GPA).

The District encourages the personal and educational growth of all students. The level of course work is indicated on a student's transcript and is considered to be a more accurate predictor of future success in college and career than class rank. The District encourages students to augment their academic transcript by enrolling in honors, advanced placement courses, career and technical education course or any other higher-level course work available in the Program of Studies.

The Superintendent of Schools will issue administrative regulations prescribing the weighting of earned marks. The weighting system will differentiate mark value for honors, advance placement courses, courses with college articulations, and Regents level courses when determining cumulative averages for honorary levels of distinction. The District will calculate and provide both weighted and unweighted grade point averages. The weighted grade point average, at the end of the third quarter of senior year, will be used in identifying honorary levels of distinction. If necessary, the guidance department will be able to provide specific academic standing information request for college admission and scholarship criteria.

### **Levels of Honorary Distinction**

Summa Cum Laude- students with a GPA between 4.0 - 3.8

Magna Cum laude- students with a weighted GPA between 3.7- 3.6

Cum Laude- students with a weighted GPA of 3.5

**Regulations for Selection of Valedictorian, Salutatorian and Class Essayist (Continued)**

When calculating the final GPA for Honorary Distinction, will take the numerical average and convert to a GPA (refer to policy 5132 for conversions). For purposes of converting a numerical grade to a GPA, the District will use the hundredths place for rounding purposes. For example, a numerical average of 93.6095 will round to a 94 while a numerical average of 93.456 will round to a 93.

This Honorary Levels of Distinction policy will become effective with the graduating class of 2026 in place of the existing.

Policy Adopted:

March 16, 1981

Policy Revised:

September 19, 1983

Policy Revised:

December 16, 1991

Policy Revised:

March 17, 1997

Policy Reviewed:

November 8, 1999

Policy Revised:

January 23, 2012

Policy Revised:

May 23, 2022

Policy Revised:

August 29, 2022

**Administrative Regulations****CLASS RANK**

The following regulations are written in accordance with school Board of Education Policy No. 5127.1

1. **Certification of Class Rank:**

The high school principal will certify to the superintendent of schools the class rank of each enrolled student in Grades 10, 11 and 12. Class ranking statements shall include the name and student attendance number for each student listed. The deadlines for filing are:

Grade 10 - September 1

Grade 11 - September 1

Grade 12 – April 30

2. **Inclusion of Courses:**

All courses of study will be included in the averaging of grades to achieve a class rank listing, except those courses which are explicitly excluded by Board of Education Policy No. 5127.1. In addition, the following activities will be excluded from class rank calculations:

- A. Credits earned for community or school service work.
- B. Credits earned for work study programs.
- C. Credits earned in adult education programs (e.g. driver education).
- D. Any approved remedial course designed to help students meet minimum competency requirements.
- E. Earned from a Regents examination which a student may be permitted to take without enrolling in a duly-recognized course of study.
- F. Earned from independent study courses beginning in September 2012.

3. **Determination of Final Marks:**

For purposes of determining class rank, only a final course mark will be used for courses taken in Grade 8 which satisfy the high school diploma requirement, as well as those taken in Grades 9, 10 and 11. For seniors a final course mark will be used for semester courses and quarterly grades for full-year courses.

**Administrative Regulations - Class Rank (Continued)**4. Weighting of Earned Marks:

Because the degree of difficulty varies, a system of weighting the final course marks, when calculating class rank, will be constructed as follows:

- A. Advanced placement courses - 1.10.
- B. All courses with a college articulation agreement – 1.10
- C. Honors - 1.05.
- D. All upper-level music courses (Wind Ensemble, String Ensemble and Choral Ensemble) – 1.05
- E. Regents courses - 1.00.

The high school principal will determine which weighting category applies to courses taken at schools other than Patchogue-Medford High School which qualify for inclusion under Board of Education Policy No. 5127.1.

The effects of withdrawals on class rank will be in accordance with the following:

- “Withdrawal” (WD) will have no effect.
- “Withdrawal Failing” (WF) ( will be recorded as a 50 as the grade for the class.

Regulations Adopted:  
December 1981  
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Regulations Revised:  
March 17, 1997  
Regulations Revised:  
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